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Prolouge

"Hollyleaf no!" I spun around not listening. A tear brushed my cheek as I lounged, not knowing where it would take me. I just needed to get away from my clan, get away from my troubles in which life had brought onto me. I would just suffer here if I stayed.

I ran into the nearest exit-the tunnel. I scrambled into the entrance but something was wrong. I heard a rumble, then a scream and all at once my vision blocked up. I couldn't breath.

Then,

there was blackness.

Chapter 1; Breath

"Huh?," I gasped, the air hurt my lungs. I noticed my eyes were watery and to my surprise, underneath me was a nest made of leaves and grass.

Alert, I picked up my head. Then, I remembered-but how? How did I live? I thought for a while in awe, but a sound brought me back into reality.

I peered into the darkness. I saw nothing but I appeared to be in a tunnel. But I wasn't buried in dirt, how?

I jerked my head up and my fur rose as the sound of light footsteps got closer to me. I sniffed, someone was here, but they smelt of the forest.

Could it be a clan cat saved me? Leafpool? I cringed at that name-the name of my birth mother, the one who cause me my pain.

No. It can't be her, the creature almost smells of caverns. But I couldn't just stand here thinking, the sound was coming closer! My hearth pounded and I decided what to do.

"Who's there?" I hear a crack in my voice.

The foots steps stop and the creature finally speaks. "I mean no harm. I am Fallen Leaves, I have been looking after you ever since you've been passed out."

I now know it is a cat like me. "Are you a clan cat?" I ask, calming down.

"No. I am not. I live in these very tunnels." Fallen Leaves replies with a powerful voice.

A rouge. I walk closer to the cat, but just then I feel a searing pain in my right shoulder blade.

"Watch out!" I hear Fallen Leaves rush to my side,"You have a broken shoulder, but in about 1 moon, it'll heal,"

I cringe in pain as he sets me on the ground gently. "Are you some sort of medicine cat?" I ask as he presses a wet leaf to my wound. Fallen Leaves shakes his head, "Not at all,"

The pain doesn't allow me to reply so I just lie there, wondering about this mysterious cat.

I watch him closely, all his movements seem so natural and you can tell he's been living in these caves for quite a while.

Even though the darkness doesn't allow me to see much, the sounds of his breathing, echoing through out the cave, at least allows me to fall into a peaceful sleep.

Chapter 2; Sunlight

My vision fills with light, making me squint. I'm surprised to find a cool air rushing into my lungs. The smell of pine refreshes me and I realize I am at the tunnel entrance.

I also remember Fallen Leaves- he must have brought me here while I was asleep.

But I was thankful to be out of the darkness and it seemed I haven't seen the sun in a while. Abruptly, I recognize the forest set upon me, it looked like ThunderClan territory! I backed away into the tunnel, I can't be seen, not after the deed I have done. I shake my head. No. I can't hide forever, someday I will have to pay, let's just hope StarClan will forgive me.

"Your up," I jump at the sound of a familiar voice. I turn, surprised by the sight in front of me. A broad, white tom with shiny fur and splotches of magnificent gold fur throughout his coat. "Fallen Leaves?" I ask.

"You've been sleeping for quite awhile now," he lets out a laugh, and I instantly whip my thin, black tail to the ground. "I-I was tired," I pick my chin up and can't help but smile at the amused face he has on.

Fallen Leaves and I talk for awhile, until sun down. I have told him my name and all about the clans and he has told me many stories about him and his adventures.

I get up and right before I stretch my legs I instantly remember my shoulder. Fallen Leaves also gets up, "If you want it to get better faster, we will have to move it daily." I look at him in surprise, "Move it?! It hurts even to get up!"

"Trust me," He meows back, "Wait here," he notices my ribs showing

through my slick, pure black coat, "I'll find some prey,"

I feel guilty and I was about to say I would come but, Fallen Leaves had already left, the determination on his face was inspiring to me.

Fallen Leaves places a plumb rabbit by my feet and he settles down next to me with a squirrel in his jaws.

I smile, "Thank you," before wolfing down the rabbit. My belly full, but I still had ribs showing.

After Fallen Leaves finished his meal, he showed me around the cave, each step hurt my shoulder, but I pushed through.

The darkness engulfed me but Fallen Leaves taught me how to get around all the twists and turns, by using all your senses.

By the end of the day, my shoulder had gotten a bit better. Though I should of been tired, adrenaline rushed through my veins, urging further exploration.

We stopped at a part in the tunnel with light shown in. "This is where I usually sleep," Fallen Leaves motioned toward a near nest. "And you can sleep over there," he glanced at another nest, "Until you get better, I mean." He blurts out.

I nod in appreciation, and pretend to be sleepy, I didn't want to keep Fallen Leaves up.

He headed towards his nest, and after about 10 minutes, I get up. I can't go to bed just yet. I tiptoe out of my nest and pass Fallen Leaves who appears to be asleep.

My shoulder slows me down but I use all the knowledge Fallen Leaves taught me to locate the exit.

Finally, I find it, the moon shone brightly through the trees. I know what I have to do.

I head east, following the scent of my clan. I know I am near when I see the walls made of bramble and sticks in which surrounds the camp.

I find a hole in the wall and crouch down. I peer into it, keeping as silent as can be.

It seems the clan is asleep. They must of just sent out the night patrol because I can see fresh prints of about 4 cats heading out the west entrance.

Also in that direction I see a familiar face; Brambleclaw! He must be on guard duty right now.

My chest aches, he used to be my father. I wish to be at his side, for him to tell me every thing is alright but reality is harsh. I have to leave before Fallen Leaves notices.

I start to walk back to the tunnel, my paws urging me to turn back but I ignore it.

The walk seems to last an eternity but finally I make it back. I am relived to see that Fallen Leaves is still asleep, so I go back into my nest, which has turned cold, and I forced myself to sleep.

Chapter 3; Healed

I awake to a paw prodding my back gently, "Hollyleaf, i brought you some prey." I lifted my head to see Fallen Leaves behind my body.

My eyes, half closed, urging to sleep. But I ignored the feeling and stood all the way up. I looked at my paws; Fallen Leaves had managed to catch a hare, thrush, and a squirrel. They all looked delicious, but I grabbed the smallest one, which was the squirrel.

Fallen Leaves nodded and he took the thrush. I went back to my nest to eat the squirrel. After a couple gulps, I finished it.

"Thank you," I meowed to Fallen Leaves, who was just finishing up his thrush. "You can have the rabbit too," He nodded toward it.

"I'm good, thanks." I would feel too guilty to have it, I thought to myself as I made my way to the exit. I intended on seeing the sun.

Soon, I hear footsteps following me. I know it's Fallen Leaves; he probably wants to make sure I'm ok. I think to myself that he is too nice.

When I finally make it to my destination, it takes about 20 seconds for Fallen Leaves to appear from the darkness. I was surprised to see a bright light around him, but I just thought it was the sun shining on his fur.

"Hello," I greet him as he sits next to me. "How's your shoulder?" He asks me, his voice full of concern. "It's great! I believe with just a little more exercises on it, it'll heal completely." I reply.

I saw a hint of sadness in his eyes when I said that, but he dismissed it and smiled, "That's good." He meowed back. I looked at him for a second, he was so mysterious at times, but I just nodded.

"Better start exercising it now," I get up, "it gets all cramped up

when I'm just sitting here." I remark as Fallen Leaves stands up. "How about we go to the stream close by?" He says and I nod.

Once at the stream, which is located a little bit to the right of the tunnel, I breath in the fresh air contently. Fallen Leaves asks me to get a drink, so I pad up to the stream and lick up some of the icy water. It must almost be leaf-bare, I think to myself as a cool breeze passes by.

For the rest of the day, Fallen Leaves and I run up and down the stream, jump across it and by the end of the day, I'm hungry, so of the first time in a while, I hunt.

I sniff the air; I smell a faint hint of water vole. I motion at Fallen Leaves to a near bush. I watch him sneak brilliantly toward the bush. He gets near it and all at once, a water vole comes sprinting out, right into my claws.

I sink them into the tender flesh and give it a killing bite to the neck, it stops squirming. Fallen Leaves smiles and walks up to me, "Nice catch!" He congratulates me and I bury it into the ground.

By the time the sun sets, Fallen Leaves has caught another squirrel; he says that he loves the taste of them and I giggle at that.

I then retrieve the water vole I caught earlier and we head back. My shoulder is a bit sore, but I can tell it is healing. Once we are at our nests, Fallen Leaves has the old rabbit from the morning and leaves the squirrel for another meal.

I joyfully eat the water vole I caught in 3 bites. Fallen Leaves yawns and I am surprised to find myself yawning in return. We both had a long day, so, in silence we gradually fall into deep slumbers.

But it turns out I don't get a good sleep. My night was full of nightmares and I kept being woken up by ice cool breezes that had found there way into the tunnels. But I soon was able to force some sleep upon me.

By the time morning came, I wasn't as refreshed as the other days.

But I ignored the feeling and carried on with the day. Fallen Leaves suspected that i wasn't in the best condition when he caught me dozing off during exercises, or slipping on the wet grass when we hunted.

Fallen Leaves was kind, and ended the exercises a bit earlier, even though I said I was okay. We hadn't caught much this day, but he let me have the squirrel from last night and he had a scrawny finch he managed to catch.

Leaf-bare wasn't going easy on us, and prey began scarcer each day. But because of Fallen Leaves, I have lived in ok conditions this last moon. My shoulder had also healed with in this time.

But my adventure did not end here, not at all.

Chapter 4; Darkness Awakens

The next morning is silent. It's been a moon since I first introduced myself to Fallen Leaves. My shoulder is fully healed and we both know our time together is coming to an end.

This past moon I never knew how attached I've gotten to the tunnels and Fallen Leaves, but I can't stay. Reality is harsh and we both knew this would happen someday.

Fallen Leaves broke the silence, "I'm going to go get us some prey," he said and made his way to the exit. This time I wasn't going to help, but I did not need to say anything. Fallen Leaves already knew.

Once he left, I got up and padded through the tunnels. I took in all the familiar sights; my vision has improved in the darkness. I sighed; this was the last time I was going to be able to call this place home.

I heard a lightening strike in the distant forest, and rain pounded on the tunnels ceiling, allowing some water to drip onto my fur. It was cold.

I was surprised to hear footsteps enter the tunnel. I listened carefully. It seemed to be two cats coming deeper into the tunnel. I smelled their scent once they got closer; they were ThunderClan cats and I could smell their fear. I also smelt another scent. Almost a rotting scent, but it didn't come from them- it came from the forest out side.

I hissed as they got dangerously close to me. They froze immediately and I whipped my tail to the wet ground. "Who are you?" One of them spoke up with a small voice. I paused and decided on what to say.

"Follow me." I said and the cat who asked backed away. But the other cat adjusted their self to seem larger; but I could tell they

were both scrawny and young. "We are not that stupid to trust a...rouge." She hissed. I them concluded they were both she-cats.

"I am not a rouge!" I retorted, "Now I suggest, if you don't want to get lost in these dark tunnels, follow me!" I ended with a powerful voice. They looked at each other and nodded, "Okay, we will follow." Said the one who called me a rouge.

I spun around and started my way to the exit. On my way I smelt the scent of rain and worms. The ground was wet and I heard the young cats slip and bump into the tunnel walls, they weren't used to the darkness. "If you keep hitting the walls- they will eventually fall over onto us and we will all die!" I sneer in annoyance.

I was sure I scared them because they stayed silent the rest of their way, and did their best to keep away from the walls. I slowed my pace so they could catch up to me. I sighed but kept going. I knew what it felt to be lost in these tunnels, so I needed to help these cats out.

By the time I got to the exit, I had to wait a little for the cats to arrive. When they did, they caught their breath and I observed them. They both looked similar, so maybe they were sisters. One had light grey fur, and the other had white fur, with splotches of striped grey fur.

They both looked young and hungry. They also looked at me, and saw that I wasn't as hungry or desperate as them. I smelt the fear again.

"Who are you?" The grey one repeated the question from earlier. I straightened my back, "I am Hollyleaf. I used to be in ThunderClan; but I ran away and have been living in these tunnels." I reply.

They both looked at me, shocked. "Your Jayfeather and Lionblaze's sister!" The grey one spoke up again. I felt tears starting to brim my eyes, but I blinked them away. "How are they doing?" I ask, choking back the tears.

"They are okay. But ThunderClan is in trouble!" The white one with splotches meowed. I lifted my ears up at that remark. "What do you

mean?" I whipped my tail; I had to help my clan!

"Okay. This may seem crazy, but the Dark Forest is coming down to the clans! They are plotting an attack on the clans!" She claimed in an urgent voice.

I looked at her like she was crazy. "How would you know that?" I asked. Maybe an omen, I thought to myself. "Well, Ivypool...she has been to the Dark Forest, in her dreams." The other cat continued, "but as a spy, I guess."

I looked at the cat called Ivypool, she nodded. "Okay...when will this attack be held?" I questioned, still a little suspicious. The other cat, named Dovewing looked at the sky, which had darkened a little. "Soon." She replied.

I then dismissed them, telling them when the time comes I will help. I walked back to the tunnels. I didn't see Fallen Leaves but I knew that he would be there when I needed help.

I didn't fall asleep that night but watching the sun go further down and the moon rise. The breeze refreshed me, allowing me to stay awake.

For some odd reason, I felt my time coming to an end.

Chapter 5; Good Bye

The early morning dew dripped onto my nose. I got little sleep last night, but that was not going to hold me back from helping my clan.

I looked over to Fallen Leaves nest; he wasn't there. I sighed and buried my face into my tail. It was a cold and wet morning today. Suddenly, I heard a far away screech from the forest.

I ran over to the entrance, my feet pounding on the tunnel grounds. When I reached the forest, it was silent again. But then I heard footsteps rushing through the forest. Lots of footsteps.

"The Dark Forest!" I whispered to myself, knowing that the attack is happening now. I freeze, my fur standing on end. An army of broad, fierce cats pass the tunnel.

One of the cats saw me and they leaped. I scrambled out of the way, barely getting away. These cats intended on killing everything in their way. But I had the advantage when the cat chased me, deeper into the tunnels.

I took many sharp turns, and smiled in content whenever the cat hit the tunnel walls, clumsily. It took no time for me to emerge from the tunnels. When the cat followed, the light shone on his angry, torn up face.

He lifted his paw and outstretched his claws, but a figure comes out of no where, and knocks the cat to the ground. "Fallen Leaves!" I say joyfully as Fallen Leaves finishes the cat with a killing blow.

"I will always be there for you," he said in a calm voice, and with that, he left. I didn't have time to thank him, so I bowed my head, watching him leave. Fallen Leaves was too kind to me.

The wind tore violently at my fur as I made my way toward sounds of fighting. The stench of rotting was overwhelming and it made me cringe. When I got nearer to the sounds of fighting, I started to see shapes moving before me. Every movement was swift.

I couldn't just watch my clan die, I had to help. But before, I need to find Ivypool and Dovewing. I sniffed the air, and decided to go northeast. I was walking cautiously as a bright shape comes out from the forest to my left and tumbles on top of me.

I hiss and kick the figure off. I spit out dirt and stand up. Looking down, I am shocked. "J-jayfeather?" I manage to say. Jayfeather instantly stands up and smells me. "Hollyleaf!"

I smile, but I soon dismiss it once I see the look in his blind eyes. Fear, I smell. "Where is Lionblaze?" I ask, trying to break the silence. "What do you think? He is fighting," Jayfeather spits out some dirt also. Of course, I thought.

Jayfeather straightens his back "You came back," he meows, a hint of joy in his voice. "Yes, right now, my clan needs me." I say, a tear rolls down my cheek. Thank god Jayfeather couldn't see that, but I knew he sensed it. "Hollyleaf." He says "Your doing the right thing," I just smile.

Jayfeather then takes me to camp. I see lots of wounded cats on the ground. I turn my head from them, I can't bear to see them suffer. I look around to see even more familiar faces, until one stands out; Firestar. He is with a group of cats, giving orders. I then hear footsteps behind me, "Hollyleaf?" I turn to see a beat up looking cat. "Your alive!" they run up to me and I studied their face; it's Lionblaze.

I smile and brush my cheek with his. "I will always come back for my clan." I say as I notice a cat come up from behind Lionblaze. I instantly recognized them, Dovewing.

"You came back," she meowed, slightly happy. I smiled and nodded to her. "Where's Ivypool?" I ask.

"She's in battle right now," Dovewing replies, her tail tip twitching.

Lionblaze says goodbye and walks back to the battle with Spiderlegs and Berrynose. I turn my head to see a familiar cat.

Leafpool. I gulp and turn away, but she must of seen me and was rushing towards me. I watch Jayfeather frown. Leafpool comes up to us, her eyes brimmed with tears. "H-hollyleaf?" She stutters, her voice full of regret and loss.

I can't bare to see her like that. My heart pounds and for the first time I am happy to see her. "Mom," I throw my head around her shoulders, and I feel her calm down. I pull back and nod at her.

She smiles with warmth and nods back. We have finally made up. I turn back to the forest and hear the cries of cats. I smell blood and know I have to go and help. "I'm going to fight," I say "take care of the clan," I smile at Jayfeather and Leafpool.

They both nod so I spin around and run into the forest. I follow the scent of blood and rustling of leaves. Once I see the cats fighting, I leap to the nearest Dark Forest cat; a small brown tom, with amber eyes.

He screeches when I latch my claws into his back, and he tumbles on the ground. I get up quick and raise my paw to scratch his face, but he knocks me down with his shoulder, pinning me down.

I feel a pain in my freshly healed shoulder, which he had sunk his teeth into. I cry out and push him away with a powerful kick. I smelled blood all around me as I was about to leap onto the small tom.

But I heard a screech to my right, and recognized Ivypool. I glanced over and saw her backed up to a tree, a large dark tabby hovering over her, paw raised with outstretched claws.

My eyes widen and without think I rush to put myself in between the two cats. Ivypool yells something I can't make out as I feel a searing pain in my throat.

My vision blurs, and I feel warm liquid flowing down to my chest. Ivypool hovers over my body, but I can't hear anything. All I can

make out is fighting over my body.

Another cat comes and starts attacking the cat who wounded me. The huge tabby falls with a thud and I smile in content. But my breathing becomes painful with each puff of air.

I felt a pinch in my scruff, they were carrying me somewhere. Only the scents of my beloved forest keeping me alive.

Ivypool and the other cat set me down in camp. I hear feet pound towards my body. I can make out Ivypool and Jayfeather. Suddenly I feel like falling asleep, but forever.

I then hear a urgent voice; "Jayfeather save her!" I can't recognize the voice but I manage to say something to Leafpool, who had on a grieving face. "Leafpool," I choke on my words, the blood spilling faster. She looks up, face full of sadness. "I-m glad, that I got to come back." I need to continue, "I wouldn't bare to leave without getting to know my mother,"

A tear falls, a red tear. I give Leafpool one last glance; she is crying. I sense other cats surround my body. I didn't deserve a death like this. An honorable death.

My vision gets worse and worse as time passes. But my wound feels better each time I get closer to the end. My vision is almost blacked out. So I manage one last smile as my life slips away.

The last thing I remember seeing was a pure white cat, with patches of magnificent gold fur,